

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 11881 132142Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 OMB-01 DRC-01

/131 W

----- 009055

R 131658Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3878

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 11881

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION OUTLOOK: ALL SYSTEMS GO

REF: (A) LONDON 11645; (B) LONDON 11723; (C) LONDON 11786

(D) LONDON 11474; (E) LONDON 11319

SUMMARY: THE ODDS FAVORING OCTOBER 10 GENERAL ELECTION

INCREASED DRAMATICALLY THIS WEEK, AND FAVORABLE TRADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 11881 132142Z

STATISTICS FOR AUGUST HAVE GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT A WELCOME

BOOST. PROSPECTS FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN THE EVENT NO PARTY RECEIVES A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WERE ENHANCED BY A LIBERAL PARTY DECISION TO LEAVE THAT OPTION OPEN AND BY TORY LEADER HEATH'S PROMISE THAT HIS PARTY WOULD SEEK "TRULY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT." THE LABOR PARTY CONTINUED ITS PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTION, ENJOYING ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED PARTY AND LABOR MOVEMENT UNITY, WHICH WAS MARRED ONLY BY UNION LEADER HUGH SCANLON'S SEPTEMBER 12 ATTACK ON THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND ON TGWU LEADER JACK JONES. LABOR ALSO ENJOYED A CONTINUED EDGE IN PUBLISHED POLLS. THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A SPATE OF WHITE PAPERS ON POPULAR ISSUES SUCH AS PENSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT LAND REFORM, WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL PAPER PROMISED. END SUMMARY.

1. ELECTIONS - LIKELIHOOD OF OCTOBER 10 GENERAL ELECTION WAS GREATLY ENHANCED THIS WEEK WHEN THE FINAL DATE BY WHICH AN OCTOBER 3 ELECTION HAD TO BE CALLED PASSED WITHOUT ACTION. THE GOVERNMENT'S DRIVE TO ISSUE ALL PROMISED WHITE PAPERS BY EARLY NEXT WEEK (POLICY PAPERS CANNOT BE ISSUED AFTER PARLIAMENT IS DISSOLVED) AND PUBLISH ITS MANIFESTO BY EARLY NEXT WEEK ARE FURTHER STRAWS IN THE WIND. THE TRADE DEFICIT, WHICH DECLINED FROM 471 MILLION POUNDS IN JULY TO 319 MILLION POUNDS IN AUGUST, WOULD SEEM TO STRENGTHEN LABOR PARTY PROSPECTS AND WILSON'S RESOLUTION TO CALL ELECTIONS, AS FOREIGN TRADE ISSUE HAS IN PAST PLAYED IMPORTANT PART IN GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE ONLY POLL PUBLISHED THIS WEEK (GALLUP) GAVE LABOR 4 POINT EDGE OVER CONSERVATIVES, WITH LIBERALS FALLING THREE POINTS TO 18 PERCENT. POLL WAS TAKEN OVER AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 4 PERIOD.

2. POLITICS OF COALITION - LIBERAL PARTY, AT BRIGHTON CONVENTION, ROUNDLY DEFEATED YOUNG LIBERAL RESOLUTION OPPOSING PARTY JOINING COALITION GOVERNMENT AND THEN ENDORSED PARTY LEADER THORPE'S POSITION (REFTEL A) THAT FINAL DECISION SHOULD REST WITH LIBERAL MPS. CONSERVATIVE STRATEGY SEEM TO FOLLOW SIMILAR PATTERN AS PARTY LEADER HEATH SEPTEMBER 12 ELABORATED ON CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO (REFTEL B), TELLING PRESS THAT NEXT TORY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TRULY NATIONAL. HE REFUSED TO EXCLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 11881 132142Z

POSSIBILITY OF COALITION.

3. LABOR'S PREPARATIONS - GOVERNMENT SEPTEMBER 12 RELEASED WHITE PAPERS ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF DEVELOPMENT LAND AND ON BENEFITS FOR THE DISABLED. THESE FOLLOWED EARLIER PAPER ON PENSIONS POLICY (REFTEL C) AND WERE DESIGNED WITH ELECTIONS IN MIND. PRESS REACTION TO DEVELOPMENT LAND REFORM PROPOSAL RANGED FROM WARM TO

CAUSTIC (FINANCIAL TIMES), THOUGH THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTROL WINDFALL PROFITS ACCRUING TO COMMERICAL DEVELOPERS. ANOTHER WHITE PAPER ON POLITICAL DEVOLUTION (REFTEL D) IS EXPECTED EARLY NEXT WEEK, ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION (GREEN) PAPERS ON OTHER SUBJECTS. PARTY MANIFESTO IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED EARLY NEXT WEEK AND WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PRESS BY WILSON. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE MADE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. LABOR PARTY UNITY, WHICH PARTY STALWARTS REGARD AS ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED, SUFFERED A SLIGHT SET BACK SEPTEMBER 12 WHEN ENGINEERING UNION (AUEW) LEADER SCANLON ATTACKED SOCIAL CONTRACT APPROVED BY TUC (REFTEL E) AND CRITICIZED TRANSPORT UNION (TGWU) LEADER JONES FOR LATTER'S EFFORTS AT BRIGHTON TO ENSURE FULL TUC SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL CONTRACT.  
SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON11881  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740257-0522  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740948/aaaaboqj.tel  
**Line Count:** 131  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) LONDON 11645; (B) LONDON 11723; (C) LONDON 11786  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL ELECTION OUTLOOK: ALL SYSTEMS GO  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005